

application of a little oil from its grandmother's pipe to a burn upon its forehead. A decoction of tobacco is used for killing parasites upon sheep and other animals. The smoke of tobacco is used for destroying green flies and other pests in greenhouses. The first attempt to use tobacco generally makes a person very sick, even tho the amount used is very small. It is clearly a deadly poison. A cigarette contains enough nicotin to kill two frogs. A single cigar contains enough to kill two men.

The poisonous effects of tobacco upon the body are manifested in many ways, especially the following :

1. The production of various nervous disorders, such as weakness of the heart, general nervousness, irritability, blindness.

2. The use of tobacco, especially in the form of chewing, destroys digestion, disorders the liver, and produces Bright's disease.

3. A general cachexia or a state of chronic poisoning, indicated by emaciation, dingy skin, lusterless eye, weakness of muscles, brain, and nerves, not infrequently results from the use of tobacco.

4. Its dwarfing effects upon boys is so generally recognized that in many countries, as France and Switzerland, and in some of the states of the Union, its use is forbidden to boys under 18 years of age. The tobacco using habit has no redeeming features whatever. It is only evil and leads to other evils, such as the use of alcohol and other narcotics.

Our Missions

The financial report of the secretary of the National Mission Board, brother J. C. Casel, appears on another page of this issue. The receipts for the month are above \$200, but of this amount, more than \$100 was gathered by Brother Lyon during his visit among the churches. The present arrangements of the Board require an outlay of not less than \$175 per month, and while the receipts for the last month were above the amount required to meet the expenses of the same month, owing to previous shortages, the report still shows the treasury overdrawn a few dollars, and not much to show for the month of December. To make the work pleasant for the Board, and comfortable for our missionaries, it is absolutely necessary that the church should increase its contributions. And why should not the church do this very thing? Are we not able? We surely are. Every month the Brethren church, or members of the Brethren church, spend more than that amount for mere luxuries, that which is neither bread nor meat, and which can only work harm to our bodies. Christmas is coming, will be here soon, and hundreds of people are preparing for what they call a "good time." Money will be freely spent, and in many cases to very little purpose. Why not cut off these unnecessaries, at least for the month of December, and largely increase our contributions to the

cause of missions? As a church we could not more appropriately observe Christmas day than by taking a collection in every congregation in the brotherhood for our missions. Instead of gifts to our friends, which too often are valueless, let us make large gifts to the Lord. If the Brethren Sunday schools everywhere will give the amount for missions which they usually spend for candies and other sweet meats, the month of December will bring into the treasury of the National Mission Board \$500 instead of \$200 or less. This will very materially help our missions, besides teaching the children the true idea of Christmas, *giving* instead of *getting*. Christ gave his life for us; shall we withhold from him the least thing which he may ask of us? Let the children be taught the joy and the pleasure of giving; explain to them that there are thousands in our own beloved land who know little if anything of the sweet joy of the Christmas time, who do not share with us the pleasures of this happy festal day, and that by giving their pennies they become workers together with God and Christ in carrying the sweet old story, the glad tidings of great joy, to those who are severed from the church and the associations of God's people. The Ashland City Sunday school will ask the children to bring their pennies as an offering to the Lord, rather than come expecting a package of sweetmeats, which at best can but lay the foundation for future dyspeptics. Let us try this plan throughout the brotherhood for this year and see the result. Many schools spend five, ten, fifteen, twenty, and even as much as twenty-five dollars for a Christmas treat. Taking the average at ten dollars, one hundred schools will spend \$1,000. This amount will more than support a missionary an entire year in either Washington or Chicago. In the light of these figures let each school determine how its money shall be appropriated.

Personal Mention

Brother Witter reports a new church organized in his field of labor.

Brother I. D. Bowman reports one accession by baptism at Allentown, Pa.

Brother A. J. Hixson continues his work in the Kanemorado district with good results.

Brother Copp reports several accessions by baptism at Bear Creek, one of his regular appointments.

Brother Yoder reports the dedication of a new church near Warsaw, Ind. Brother Flora continues the services.

Brother Puterbaugh reports one accession at Lanark. Brother Livengood keeps up a continual revival in his church.

The meetings at Cambria, Ind., conducted by Brother Fox closed with eight accessions. It was a good and successful meeting.

The Lord is greatly blessing Brother Welty in his work. He reports three more accessions, and the field of labor constantly enlarging.

The congregation at Elk Lick, Pa., has re-engaged Brother Mackey as pastor, extending the time to April 1900. That church does not believe in short pastorates.

Brother L. S. Bauman closed a short meeting at Roann, with four accessions. The work in that charge is certainly well organized every department doing its share.

The obituary of brother Joseph Myers, found on another page of this issue was furnished by Brother Harrison, according to promise when a notice of the death first appeared.

Brother Daniel Hendricks expects to go to Southern Illinois about December 20. Any of the Brethren churches desiring a visit from him will please address him at Venice, Ill.

The article in the contribution department by Brother Mackey is to accompany the young people's topic for Christmas. It is a thoughtful article, and we are sure will prove helpful.

Brother C. Herbert Marks closed a twenty-one nights' meeting at Gravelton, Ind., resulting in twenty-five accessions, twenty-two by baptism. Surely the church at that place has reasons to rejoice.

Brother Holsinger and wife contemplate going to Arizona where his daughter, Lottie will assist him in the completion of the manuscript for his book. May the Lord grant him strength and grace to finish the work.

We had a short but pleasant call from brother H. M. Yoder, last Sabbath afternoon. He is a brother of C. F. Yoder, of Chicago University, whom he visited lately. Brother Yoder is now traveling in the interests of a western farm journal.

Brother Furry expects to begin a three weeks' meeting in the Fairview church in this month. He announces that his communications to the young people's department will be cut short during this period. Please do not cut them off altogether, brother.

Brother Teeter seems to know just how many miles he traveled and how many sermons he preached in his four and one-half years' labor in Indiana. This shows that he is a systematic worker; he knows what he intends to do, and as a natural result knows what he has done. He is now engaged in revival work in his new charge.

Brother Haskins preached the union Thanksgiving sermon in Johnstown, Pa., taking for his text "Who hath distinguished thee?" He dwelt upon the high position of the United States among the countries of the world, especially the favorable outcome of the recent war with Spain, and declared that the glory of our greatness belonged to God, and him alone.

It seems that Brother Lyon learned how to handle that "cross-cut saw" in his youth. We have had considerable experience in that kind of work ourselves, and what Brother Lyon says is true to the letter. There is no other kind of exercise that gives one a better appetite. If you want your spiritual appetite whetted up a little, take hold of the saw and work it for a few weeks.

With this issue we introduce to our readers Sister (Miss) Pearl Lutz, one of Falls City, Nebraska's wide awake school teachers, baptized since Brother Gillin's meetings began. She is a grand-daughter of elder Samuel Stump deceased, one of the Brethren's most useful ministers during the crisis in the first years of our separate ecclesiastical existence. Falls City is one of our oldest and most substantial congregations, and we hope Sister Lutz will keep us fully and promptly posted on the progress of their church and membership.

The truly great and good in affliction bear a countenance more princely than they are wont; for it is the temper of the highest hearts, like the palm trees, to strive most upwards when most burdened.—*Sir Philip Sidney.*